

## **Minutes**

### **Governor's Commission on Family Farms Frankfort, Kentucky Berry Hill Mansion October 31, 2001**

**Members present:** Jim Naive, Chairman; Karen Armstrong-Cummings; Bill Atkins; Alice Woods Baesler; John Berry, Jr.; Ron D. Catchen; John-Mark Hack; Don Halcomb; Susan Harkins; Jeff Hall; David Kash; Luther Mason; Jennifer Marsh; Al W. Pedigo; Harvey Mitchell, representing Commissioner Billy Ray Smith and Bonnie Tanner.

**Absent were:** Sharon Furches; Kirby Hancock; Denise Hoffman; Mark Haney; Janet Johnson; Chris Kummer; Sylvia Lovely; Mattie Mack; Kenneth Mattingly; John S. Medley, Jr.; Charles Miller; William Brandon Reed; Secretary Allen Rose; Bob Sparks.

**Staff Present:** Joel Neaveill

**Guests included:** Brad Wellons; Devon Hankins; Sandy Gardner; and Janet Patton.

**Chairman Naive called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

The nominating committee comprised of Ron Catchen, John-Mark Hack, and Jim Naive nominated Don Halcomb as the new Commission Chair. Al Pedigo made a motion to elected Don Halcomb Chair by acclamation. David Kash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Naive thanked the Commission members for their hard work during his chairmanship. Don Halcomb commented that Jim Naive exemplifies what a citizen should be. Kentucky is a much better place for having had Mr. Naive as Chair of this Commission.

Ron Catchen, Chair of the Education Committee brief the Commission on the committee's activities including the Farm Family Education Summit follow-up meeting. Ron stated that we need a coordination of all education programs in the Commonwealth in concert with the development of a program that focuses on farm family education. This needs to be a proactive curriculum-based education program. Mr. Catchen made a motion that the Commission urge the Council on Postsecondary Education to coordinate this effort. Don Halcomb seconded the motion.

Jennifer Marsh commented that the concept does fit within the Council on Postsecondary Education's scope of work. However, with a budget freeze, there is no source of funding.

Don Halcomb inquired about any conflicts with existing services provided by the Cooperative Extension Service. Mr. Catchen responded that there is not a conflict. He continue that there are other agencies that have a stake in this issue that are conducting services but are not coordinating it. There would be an advisory committee that would assist a Coordinator in the focusing of priorities.

Sandy Gardner inquired if this is something that the Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship could take on. Mr. Catchen responded that there are many different programs such as production that fall outside of the Center's scope of work.

Jennifer Marsh stated that the Council on Postsecondary Education could work with the universities to get credit and certification that producers could benefit from when dealing with retailers.

The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Atkins solicited stories of interesting and informative agricultural operations that could be a potential spotlight for a segment she does on Channel 27 in Lexington. She is especially interested in projects going on in the western part of the state.

Alice Baesler updated the Commission on issues related to the Farm Labor Task Force. There is a bill in Congress that would give migrant workers currently in the United States a card to allow them to continue to stay in the country. It provides for a six-month stay and then they could be eligible for residency status. This bill would sustain the H2A program. The bill is creeping along due to the activities surrounding the events of September 11.

On the state level, the task force is working with Representative Jack Coleman to issue undocumented workers a temporary drivers license that would be valid for one year. The advantages include tracking undocumented workers, reducing uninsured motorists, and protection of other individuals.

John-Mark Hack motioned that the Farm Labor Task Force to submit a white paper on this issue and position and submit it to the Commission at its November meeting to determine whether the Commission wants to go on record to the Governor as supporting this position. Susan Harkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brad Wellons commented that the Legislative Research Commission is in the process of finishing a report addressing this issue. He suggested that the Task Force might want to review this report prior to drafting a white paper.

John-Mark Hack updated the Commission on the activities of the Agricultural Development Board. A copy of the presentation can be obtained by contacting the Office of Agricultural Policy.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

All copies can be obtained at the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy or on the Governor's official web site at [www.kyagpolicy.com](http://www.kyagpolicy.com)